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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SR-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 FRB-03 OMB-01
ACDA-07 IO-13 /100 W

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R 161825Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6339
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFQR, AF, UR
SUBJECT: DAUD VISIT TO MOSCOW

CLASSIFIED AS SECRET AUTHORITY CO: CADR
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SUMMARY: THE SIGNING OF A SOVIET-AFGHANISTAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS THE MAIN EVENT DURING PRESIDENT DAUD'S APRIL 12-15 VISIT TO MOSCOW. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS HEAVY AND HIGHLIGHTED CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS. DAUD'S SPEECH AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED POINTED REFERENCES TO PAKISTAN WHICH, HOWEVER, ARE SLIGHTLY Milder THAN THOSE IN EARLIER SOVIET-AFGHAN DOCUMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAUD ARRIVED IN MOSCOW ON APRIL 12 TO A HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION, INCLUDING SUPREME SOVIET CHAIRMAN (HEAD OF STATE) PODGORNYY, PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN, FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND NUMEROUS OTHERS. DAUD MET WITH BREZHNEV AND THE OTHER SOVIET PRINCIPALS

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PLUS FOREIGN AID CHIEF SKACHKOV THE SAME AFTERNOON

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IN A "FRIENDLY" ATMOSPHERE "OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING".

2. AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET, BOTH PODGORNYY AND DAQUD STRESSED FRIENDLY AND GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS OVER MANY YEARS, MENTIONING DAQUD'S LAST VISIT HERE IN JUNE, 1974 AND PODGORNYY'S TO KABUL IN DECEMBER, 1975. IN HIS REMARKS ON DETENTE, PODGORNYY SAID THAT IT SHOULD APPLY "NOT ONLY IN ONE CONTINENT," BUT TO OTHER AREAS OF THE GLOBE AS WELL -- A VAGUE FORMULA DRAWN FROM BREZHNEV'S 25TH PARTY CONGRESS SPEECH ON THE APPLICABILITY OF HELSINKI TO ASIA. PODGORNYY ALSO PRAISED THE "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA, INCLUDING "PEACEFUL TALKS" BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, BUT CRITICIZED THOSE WHO PROMOTE TENSIONS IN ASIA (READ CHINA) AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT MILITARY BLOCs AND BASES IN ASIA (READ THE U.S.)

3. DAQUD IN HIS SPEECH STEERED CLEAR OF ANYTHING CLOSE TO ASIAN SECURITY, BUT SPOKE OF PROBLEMS LEFT OVER FROM THE ERA OF "IMPERIALISM" WHICH MUST BE SOLVED THROUGH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING "BY MEANS OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS OR OTHER PEACEFUL MEANS." AFTER SAYING THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL "PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES," DAQUD POINTEDLY TURNED TO RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED DUE TO "ONE POLITICAL CONTRADICTION LEFT OVER FROM THE SHAMEFUL EPOCH OF IMPERIALISM." AFGHANISTAN FAVORED DIRECT TALKS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, AND WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE RESULTING FROM LEADERSHIP CONTACTS WOULD LEAD TO ITS RESOLUTION.

4. THE TWO SIDES SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON APRIL 14. SOVIET
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FOREIGN AID CHIEF S.A. SKACHKOV AND AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER ALI AHMAD KHURRAM SIGNED THE DOCUMENT, WITH DAQUD, PODGORNYY AND NUMEROUS OTHERS FROM BOTH SIDES PRESENT. PRAYDA (APRIL 15) CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS SHORT AND APPEARS TO SET A FRAMEWORK FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC/AID RELATIONS IN AREAS OF TRADITIONAL COOPERATION. IT ALSO ESTABLISHES

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A JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PASS -
VESTNIX (APRIL 15) SPECIFIES THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL
BE VALID FOR TWELVE YEARS WITH AUTOMATIC FIVE-
YEAR EXTENSIONS. THIS REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET IN KABUL SOON
TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING A BIG COPPER
SMELTING COMPLEX WITH A POSSIBLE CAPACITY OF 100,000
TO 120,000 TONS PER YEAR. SOVIET GEOLOGISTS REPORTEDLY
DISCOVERED A MAJOR COPPER DEPOSIT NEAR KABUL
RECENTLY.

5. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, CARRIED IN PRAVDA (APRIL 16),
DESCRIBES THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE VISIT, CALLS FOR THE
"STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA THROUGH
THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF THE STATES OF THE CONTINENT,"
AND ENDORSES SEVERAL SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. IT
ALSO SAYS THAT "DISPUTES SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY MEANS
OF NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE."
ON AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS" SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS
"THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS." DAOUD INVITED BREZHNEV,
PODGORNYY AND KOSYGIN TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN AND THE
INVITATION WAS "GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED."

6. COMMENT: THE STATEMENTS AND EVENTS DURING THIS
VISIT ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE DURING DAOUD'S VISIT
HERE IN JUNE, 1974 AND PODGORNYY'S TO KABUL IN DECEMBER,
1975, EXCEPT FOR THE NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENT. ON
PAKISTAN, DAOUD'S REMARKS WERE SOMEWHAT Milder,
OMITTING SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE BALUCHI/PUSHTUN
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ISSUE. STILL THEY CARRIED SOME BITE. I
TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT
HE READ DAOUD'S REFERENCE TO "ONE PROBLEM" LEFT OVER
FROM "IMPERIALISM" AS A REFERENCE TO THE DURAND
LINE, AND HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE REFERENCES TO
"OTHER MEANS" FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM COULD MEAN
AN INTEREST IN SEEKING THE "GOOD OFFICES" OF ANOTHER
COUNTRY (THE USSR). WE ARE LESS INCLINED TO TAKE
THE SECOND POINT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DAOUD'S
EMPHASIS ON "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS" AND THE COMMUNIQUE'S
REFERENCE TO NON-INTERFERENCE BY ANY OUTSIDE
COUNTRY. ON ASIAN SECURITY, THE COMMUNIQUE COMES
VERY CLOSE TO THE BREZHNEV FORMULA, BUT

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THIS FORMULA ITSELF IS MUSHY AND IS SIMILAR TO LANGUAGE USED WITH AFGHANISTAN AND OTHERS EARLIER. THERE WAS NO EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, WHICH IS ALSO STANDARD WITH AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY." YET DAQUD MADE ONE PASSING REFERENCE TO THAT CONCEPT AND THE NEW AID AGREEMENT ALSO MENTIONS IT.

7. IN SUM, THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ANOTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE PERIODICALLY UNDERLINED BY HIGH-LEVEL VISITS. THE ONLY MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT, SO FAR AS WE CAN SEE, IS THE NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, WHICH PROBABLY MEANS MORE SOVIET AID.
TOON

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